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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012799

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS - DECLAS 12/31/81

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: AUGMENTATION OF VOA TINANG FACILITIES

REF: MANILA 0577

1. IT DOES NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE TO AVOID TYING TOGETHER THE AUGMENTATION OF THE VOA FACILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE PHASING DOWN OF THE VOA INSTALLATIONS IN OKINAWA. WE WILL HAVE TO RELATE THE TINANG BUILDUP TO THE OKINAWA PHASEOUT SO AS TO, (A) MAKE GOOD OUR EXISTING COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR THE $16 MILLION RECEIVED FROM GOJ AND, (B) CONVINCE GOJ THAT WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH FIRM PLANS FOR THE RELOCATION. JAPANESE HAVE PAID US SOME $16 MILLION, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL BE INFORMING THEM NO LATER THAN MAY 1975 OF THE PLANS FOR RELOCATION OF THE VOA FACILITIES IN OKINAWA.
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2. OUR TIMETABLE IS FURTHER COMPRESSED BECAUSE AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE USIA BUDGET REQUEST, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE FUNDS REQUESTED FOR TINANG EXPANSION ARE IN EFFECT OFFSET BY $16 MILLION INCLUSIONS IN $320 MILLION PAYMENT BY GOJ IN CONNECTION WITH REVERSION OF OKINAWA. WHILE WE HOPE TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION TO CONGRESS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION BECAUSE OF GOJ SENSITIVITY TO

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE THAT IT IS FUNDING RELOCATION OF VOA, THIS INFORMATION MAY BECOME PUBLIC. FINALLY, THERE IS THE FACT THAT THE TINANG EXPANSION IS THE ONLY MAJOR EXPANSION OF VOA FACILITIES IN THE PACIFIC COINCIDENT WITH THE OKINAWA PHASEDOWN. IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO HOPE THAT THE LINKAGE WILL ESCAPE NOTICE. HOWEVER, AS YOU MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE, AUGMENTATION OF VOA TRANSMISSION IN EAST ASIA HAS BEEN A HIGH PRIORITY USIA NEED FOR MANY YEARS.

3. PARTICULARLY, THERE APPEARS A PROBLEM OF TIMING. THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET WILL BECOME PUBLIC ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 3 AND CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON BUDGET WHICH INCLUDE TINANG AUGMENTATION WILL PROBABLY BEGIN MARCH OR APRIL. TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT WITH JAPANESE, WE MUST INFORM GOJ OF OUR PLANS FOR TINANG BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET SUBMISSION MAKES IT OBVIOUS TO THEM THAT PLANS DO EXIST. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT PRUDENT THAT THE PHIL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS LINKAGE BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET BECOMES PUBLIC OR BEFORE WE EMBARK ON ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE.

4. WE FEEL WE SHOULD INFORM THE GOP OF OUR INTENT TO NOTIFY THE JAPANESE CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF THE $16 MILLION BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS PUBLISHED. GOP SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT WHEN US BUDGET IS RELEASED, GOJ WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO RESPOND TO DIET INTERPRETATIONS ABOUT RELATION OF VOA FUNDS TO OKINAWA RELOCATION AND DISCLOSURE OF TINANG AUGMENTATION PLAN IS LIKELY.

5. WOULD THEREFORE HOPE THAT IN ABSENCE OF MELCHOR, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WILL BE ABLE TO FIND SOME OCCASION SOON TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT MARCOS IS FULLY AWARE OF ABOVE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONNECTION BETWEEN TINANG AUGMENTATION AND JAPANESE FUNDS. WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST GOP REACTION TO ABOVE AND CONFIRMATION THAT WE MAY MOVE AHEAD TO NOTIFY THE GOJ.

6. PENDING REPLY FROM EMBASSY MANILA, TOKYO SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, DISCUSS OUR TINANG PLANS WITH GOJ.

7. USIA CONCURS. KISSINGER

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